

Regular Meeting
Monday October 15, 2012
9:00 am
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

Minutes

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, October 15, 2012 at 9:00 am at the Chowan County Public Safety Center. Present: Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Commissioners Keith Nixon, Jeff Smith, Emmett Winborne, Ralph Cole and John Mitchener.

Commissioner Ellis Lawrence was absent.

Staff present: County Manager Zee Lamb, Finance Officer Kim Woodley and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Chairman Goodwin called for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1.

There was no public comment.

Employee Recognition

Richard Taylor Executive Director for the State 911 Board stated that while doing a site visit of the 911 center in Edenton recently, he witnessed two of Chowan's 911 telecommunicators handle a 911 cell-phone hang up call, the call was misrouted from Perquimans County. He stated that Telecommunicator Rita Saunders answered the call and attempted to call back twice. On the third attempt she was able to make contact with the caller. She learned that the patient was suffering a seizure, she then informed her partner Tammy Smith to contact Perquimans County to dispatch EMS. He stated that Rita then began a procedure known as Emergency Medical Dispatch. He stated that he observed Rita keeping the caller calm and giving step by step procedures (pre-arrival medical instruction) to the caller. He stated that after the call he asked Rita why she didn't transfer the call to Perquimans County, and Ms. Saunders informed him that she was aware that Perquimans County 911 does not offer Emergency Medical Dispatch and she was concerned for the patient. He stated that Ms. Saunders wanted to be sure that the patient and caller were ok, and thanks to her efforts the call turned out great. He stated the staff did an excellent job and he relayed what he witnessed to the State 911 Board. He stated the Board asked him to go back to Chowan County and address the Board of Commissioners and let them know how they appreciate Chowan County's commitment to 911. He stated that not every county offers emergency medical dispatch. He stated the Board could be very proud of their commitment, and then recognized Ms. Saunders and Ms. Smith for their service. He then presented Ms. Saunders and Ms. Smith with a recognition plaque from the State 911 Board.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Goodwin then presented the consent agenda.

a. Approval of Minutes

Attached are the minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting for Board review and approval.

b. Budget Amendments

<u>BA 1213-020:</u>		INCR	DECR			
11-3835-820-00	Sale of fixed assets	2,422				
11-8200-186-00	Workman's comp		10,839			
11-6110-451-00	Property & Liability	13,261				

The flood insurance for the Library was not included in the original budget. This has been paid in Central Services in years past. At the request of the Board of Commissioners, this will be paid in department 6110 where all other costs for the Library are recorded. The workman's compensation annual audit reflected a return of premium of \$10,839 for FY 2012. This is being used as well as additional revenues realized from the sale of fixed assets in FY 2013 to cover the cost of the flood insurance premium for the Library.

<u>BA 1213-025:</u>		INCR	DECR			
11-3234-310-00	Article 44 sales tax	332				
11-4730-192-00	Professional services	332				
The Board of Commissioners voted at its 9/4/12 meeting to appropriate \$372 towards the Arrowhead Beach hydrilla treatment as a one time appropriation. The invoice submitted is \$332. There were no revenues budgeted for Article 44 sales tax, however, \$550.89 has been received to date.						

BA 1213-026:		INCR	DECR			
DEBT SERVICE FUND:						
30-3980-980-11	Transfer from General Fund		93,527			
30-3980-980-23	Transfer from FD Fund	347				
30-3980-980-40	Transfer from Schools Cap Res		41,835			
	Total Revenues	347	135,362			
30-9100-710-04	DF Walker Principal	2				
30-9200-720-04	DF Walker Interest		41,837			
30-9100-710-05	NCCC/DSS Principal	1				
30-9200-720-05	NCCC/DSS Interest		22,301			
30-9100-710-08	PSC Principal		57,606			
30-9200-720-08	PSC Interest		13,621			
30-9100-710-10	FD Trucks Principal	4,563				
30-9200-720-10	FD Trucks Interest		4,216			
	Total Expenditures	4,566	139,581			

Amend the original budget in the Debt Service Fund to match the new debt service payments due on the DF Walker School, NCCC/DSS Buildings, PSC Building, and Center Hill Fire Trucks due to refunding.

BA 1213-027:		INCR	DECR			
GENERAL FUND:						
11-3910-910-00	Debt Proceeds	9,990,000				
11-3980-980-23	Transfer from FD Fund	4,188				
	Total Revenues	9,994,188				
						-
11-9100-750-00	Debt Service-USDA payoff	9,985,100				
11-9100-750-00	Closing costs	73,090				
11-9800-980-30	Transfer to Debt Service Fund		93,527			
11-9900-999-00	Contingency	29,525				
	Total Expenditures	10,087,715	93,527			
FIRE DISTRICT FUND:						
23-4340-980-11	Transfer to General Fund	4,188				
23-4340-980-30	Transfer to Debt Service Fund	347				
23-4340-213-00	Uniforms		4,535			
	Total Expenditures	4,535	4,535			
SCHOOLS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND:						
40-5913-993-00	Future capital outlay	41,835				
40-9800-980-30	Transfer to Debt Service Fund		41,835			

Appropriate the refunding of debt in the General Fund, including all closing costs. Adjust the transfers to the Debt Service Fund from the General Fund, Fire District Fund, and School Capital Reserve Fund to reflect the modified payments due to the refunding.

Chairman Goodwin then asked for any questions or comments on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Mitchener thanked Ms. Woodley for the clarity of the amendments.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0)

Resolution in support of dedication of Rocky Hock Creek Bridge on Rocky Hock Road

Fred Spruill representing the Chowan County Emergency Responder Memorial Committee presented a resolution for the Board's consideration. The resolution is a request to be forwarded to NCDOT asking consideration of dedication of the Rocky Hock Creek Bridge in honor and memory of Forrest Ranger/Game Warden John Wilbur Hollowell who was assaulted and later died from his injuries.

Commissioner Smith clarified that this is the bridge near Bennett's Millpond.

Mr. Spruill stated yes.

Chairman Goodwin stated that some in the neighborhood feel ownership of the bridge and asked for clarification of the residency of Mr. Hollowell.

Mr. Spruill stated that Mr. Hollowell resided in that neighborhood during his married life and the family has shown support of the resolution.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board adopt the resolution as presented. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DEDICATING

THE ROCKY HOCK CREEK BRIDGE ON THE ROCKY HOCK ROAD

WHEREAS, John Wilbur Hollowell served as a Chowan County Deputy Forrest Ranger/ex officio Game Warden with the Department of Conservation and Development beginning on 11 January, 1929; and

WHEREAS, On August 30, 1930, Deputy Forrest Ranger/ex officio Game Warden Hollowell was assaulted by three individuals after testifying as a witness for the state when he left the courtroom, and stepped out onto West King Street Edenton, North Carolina. Suffering from a concussion, he was taken to a family member's home where he died later that day;

WHEREAS, West King Street lies within the territorial boundaries of the Town of Edenton in Chowan County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, The Chowan County Emergency Responder Memorial Committee has requested that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners support the proposed dedication of the Rocky Hock Creek Bridge on the Rocky Hock Road in honor and memory of Chowan County Deputy Forrest Ranger/ex officio Game Warden Deputy John Wilbur Hollowell; and

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners agrees with the Committee that such recognition is deserved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County, North Carolina respectfully supports the request of the Chowan County Emergency Responder Memorial Committee to the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the Rocky Hock Creek Bridge on the Rocky Hock Road be dedicated in honor and memory as follows.

FORREST RANGER/GAME WARDEN

JOHN WILBUR HOLLOWELL

BRIDGE

ADOPTED this 15th day of October, 2012.

Mr. Spruill reminded the Board of the October 25, 2012 Emergency Responder Banquet.

Commissioner Nixon thanked Mr. Spruill for the invitation.

Auditor Contract

Mr. Lamb presented the Board with a proposed contract provided by Martin Starnes and Associates for an extension of the existing contract with Chowan County for 3 years. He stated that Martin Starnes and Associates charged the County \$50,000 for the 2011-12 audit.

Commissioner Nixon stated that initially there was a lot of work to be done to adjust the County's books. He stated that he suggested that they lower their price and they agreed.

Mr. Lamb stated the proposed first year price is \$42,000, the second year is \$43,500 and the third year is \$43,500. He stated he would recommend renewing the contract based on the reduced rate and excellent service provided.

Chairman Goodwin stated he supported the proposed contract price.

Commissioner Nixon asked if the price includes the TDA audit expense.

Ms. Woodley stated yes, that they have not indicated an additional cost for that audit.

Commissioner Nixon moved to approve the contract as presented. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Board Appointments

Chairman Goodwin state that attached to the Board packets are applications for appointments to various Boards with an accompanying list of current membership that is interested in reappointment.

Board Clerk Susanne Stallings noted that the names of current Board members interested in reappointment was also attached. She noted these vacancies have been advertised for several months in the Chowan Herald and on the County website.

Commissioner Nixon moved to reappoint all those interested in reappointment. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Commissioner Nixon moved to appoint Lou Sarratt to the County Planning Board vacant seat representing northern Chowan County. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the remaining vacancies.

Chowan County Planning Board

Lou Sarratt - appointed

Mike Williams - reappointed

Patti Kersey - reappointed

One vacant seat remains (northern Chowan County)

Chowan County Board of Adjustment

Sheri Hare – reappointed

Brian White – reappointed

Two vacant seats, 1 northern Chowan County, and 1 alternate seat

Edenton Board of Adjustment

Owen Maxwell – reappointed

One vacant alternate seat remains – must reside in ETJ

Voluntary Ag District Board

Two vacancies will occur this year.

Former County Office Building Update

Mr. Lamb stated that the Board has suggested that this property be put on the agenda for a discussion on what to do with it.

Commissioner Nixon stated that over the past few years there has been much discussion on this building and noted a large study was done on the facility in 2008. He stated demolition of the

structure was discussed, but noted that because of its location in the historic district a delay of up to one year can be put on demolition. He stated several local agencies have been involved in getting the building out to investors. He stated that personally he would like to see the site have a hotel constructed on that site one day.

Chairman Goodwin stated that as the property sits now, it has not generated any revenue.

Commissioner Smith asked about the status of the server and switches.

Mr. Lamb stated that some of the equipment is being moved.

Commissioner Winborne moved to declare the building and the grounds it sits , but not the parking spaces on as surplus.

The Board discussed the need to clarify the ownership of the parking spaces.

Mr. Lamb stated he would like to see some parking spaces reserved for the jailer's house.

Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor of the motion, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Update on Maintenance Issues

DSS Generator

Mr. Lamb stated that after some investigation having a generator on reserve is cost prohibitive.

Maintenance Director Terry Rose stated he is working to obtain quotes for wiring.

The Board discussed the size of generator needed and possible reimbursement for equipment.

Commissioner Winborne stated he is not totally convinced that the generator is needed.

Commissioner Nixon discussed the capital project budget for the relocation and renovation of DSS.

Mr. Lamb noted that \$23,874 was carried over.

DSS Director Clifton Hardison stated his main concern is loss of phone or operations if there is a lengthy power outage.

The Board discussed the ownership of the generator at Center Hill Crossroads Fire Department.

Commissioner Winborne stated his understanding was that the generator being removed from the building is owned by the fire department not the County.

Commissioner Nixon stated he would like to see the building self sustained with a generator one day but would like to see costs with a lease purchase.

Ag Building Roof

Mr. Lamb stated the roof is in need of repair. He stated that \$18,150 is available from Hurricane Irene insurance money to spend on repair of the roof which leaks during hard rains.

Chairman Goodwin stated he was glad to see a warranty in the proposals.

Mr. Rose stated the contract would have to be re-bid to remove the quote for duct work.

Commissioner Nixon moved to amend the budget up to \$20,000 from hurricane monies to repair the roof.

Ms. Woodley stated the work could be paid from the hurricane fund without moving it.

Commissioner Nixon rescinded his motion and moved to allow the manager to work with the Maintenance Director to get the project finished in an amount up to \$18,500.

Mr. Rose noted insulation would be removed by maintenance staff.

Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (6-0).

Mr. Rose provided the Board with information on repairs at COA as well as a list of maintenance known issues.

Senior Center Report

Senior Center Director Connie Parker provided the Board with an annual report on the activities of the Senior Center. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled October 15, 2012.

Commissioner Cole left the meeting.

Recreation Dept Report

Recreation Director Jason Petersen provided the Board with an annual report on the activities of the Recreation Department. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled October 15, 2012.

Timely and Important Matters

Commissioner Mitchener provided the Board with a handout from Destination Downtown on the status of the digitization of the Taylor Theater.

Coastal Insurance

Commissioner Mitchener provided the Board with information on a proposed rate increase for coastal counties. He stated there would be a meeting in Raleigh and urged the Board to adopt some resolution in opposition to the rate increase proposal.

Chairman Goodwin stated he would allow the Manager to draft a resolution or letter on the Board's behalf. (The resolution below was presented to NC 20 on October 16, 2012).

WHEREAS, Chowan County is located in Homeowner Territory #49, which includes Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Jones, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the homeowners in Territory #49 have a current rate of \$862 per \$75,000 of coverage; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed base rate is \$1,121 per \$75,000, an increase of \$259 (approximately a 30% increase); and

WHEREAS, homeowners in Territory #49 pay base rates much higher than the base rate in many counties in central and western North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the NC Rate Bureau has filed a request for increased base rates that will be reviewed by the NC Commissioner of Insurance in the coming weeks; and,

WHEREAS, homeowners insurance represents a significant financial burden for our property owners; and this burden has a negative impact on family budgets, the regional tourism industry; and, the local real estate market; and,

WHEREAS, there is significant disparity in homeowners insurance rates across North Carolina; and, this disparity is unfair to homeowners in coastal North Carolina, including Chowan County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages the NC Commissioner of Insurance to reject the proposed 30% increase in base rates for Territory #49; and, encourages the Commissioner to work toward a fairer homeowner's insurance rate structure for coastal North Carolina.

Adopted this 15th day of October, 2012.

Closed Session

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board go into closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (3, 5 and 6). Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The minutes of the closed session are sealed.

Being no further business for the closed session, Commissioner Smith moved that the closed session be adjourned. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Adjourn

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

Edward C. Goodwin, Chairman

Susanne Stallings, Clerk